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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6362**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 231**

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 1, 2006

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Department of Natural Resources Employees.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Simpson

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides that employees of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), except for the director, the employee in the highest position in each division, and the conservation officers, are merit employees. It requires the DNR to work with the State Personnel Department (SPD) to develop position classification plans for the DNR and to assist current employees in qualifying for positions. The bill requires the SPD to assist DNR employees who do not qualify to find employment with another state agency, if possible. It repeals provisions establishing the nonmerit status of DNR employees.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The requirement to shift DNR employees from nonmerit to merit employees would have no fiscal impact to the DNR in terms of salaries and fringe benefits. The SPD, however, could experience an increase in administrative expenses associated with developing position classification plans. The SPD could also experience an increase in administrative expenses associated with helping employees find employment with other state agencies if the employees no longer qualify for their jobs under the classification plans. The impact would depend on the nature of assistance offered by the SPD. It is presumed that the SPD could develop classification plans given its existing resources and staff.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** SPD; DNR.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:**

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